



PULSE^{SD}

EMS PROGRAM QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

South Dakota Office of Rural Health – Emergency Medical Services

June 2020

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Director's Welcome

By Marty Link—EMS Director

“Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you,” Psalms 55:22.

Numerous words have described the current COVID-19 pandemic. Words such as unprecedented, surreal, nonplussed, and anomalous. Each represent a different meaning, a different conviction, perhaps a different solace as we attempt to describe to ourselves, our family, and our friends what has taken the world by storm.

As I wake in the morning, I often search for the little nugget in life most fulfilling to me - Hope. Hope is a powerful word full of conviction; an inter belief, an optimism. Hope brings comfort, healing, a presence to get through uncertain times. It is vitally important as we continue our walk, run, or crawl through life, that we have an inner conviction that brings us hope.

You all bring others hope; knowing that help is on the way, knowing that a loved one is being cared for, knowing that you are doing everything you can - provides hope.

Just remember, though, your “tank” needs to be filled too. You are most appreciated!

Sincerely,

Marty



<https://EMS.sd.gov>



Helmsley First Responder AED Project

By Marty Link—EMS Director

The generosity of the Helmsley Charitable Trust has recently provided LIFEPAK CR2 AED devices to law enforcement statewide.

Approximately 95% of these devices have been placed in the hands of local police departments, county sheriffs, Highway Patrol, Tribal law enforcement, GFP, and conservation officers.

Over the last several months, we have seen numerous uses of these devices by law enforcement. And, we have seen lives saved through this project.

I want to continually reinforce EMS agencies, and local law enforcement talk about responses to out-of-hospital cardiac arrests, debrief after a medical response and continually embrace the concept of continuous quality improvement.



Naloxone Update

By Marty Link—EMS Director

The EMS Program continues to administer the statewide Naloxone Project initiative. Through this program, thousands of doses of Naloxone have been distributed to EMS and law enforcement agencies and several overdose reversals have occurred.

The Naloxone Project continues to see funding through our Department of Social Service partnership. Please monitor your agency's supply, expiration dates, and provide remedial training as needed. If your agency has Naloxone that is nearing expiration, please contact Bob Hardwick at Bob.Hardwick@state.sd.us for resupply.



South Dakota EMS Patches

By Lance Iversen—EMS Data Manager / Ed. & Prof. Standards Coordinator



If you or your service are interested in purchasing SD EMS patches, you can send a check or money order, made out to DOH/EMS, and mail to:

DOH-EMS
Attn. Bob Hardwick
600 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

Patches are \$1.00 each

EMS COVID Response

By Marty Link—EMS Director

For months now, the EMS Program has assisted in the COVID-19 response. This response has ranged anywhere from surge planning to dispatch of thousands of articles of PPE to our frontline workforce. Statewide and local efforts to decrease the spread of COVID-19 have proven largely successful, and our initial peak dates and numbers have changed significantly over the past weeks to months.

It is important to remain vigilant and ensure you are protecting yourselves, your family, and your patients. CDC guidance and weekly calls have brought a sense of comfort, knowing we are following the necessary steps to prevent healthcare infections and the spread of this virus to others. And, most certainly, the work, each and everyone of you are doing has reaped great dividends in added protection of potential spread.

The DOH and many vested stakeholders continue to monitor hospitalizations. We know the number of positive test results and subsequent recoveries will continue to ebb and flow throughout the summer; the fall, and what we can expect remains in question. We continue to look at the numbers, the models, and the advice from experts; our job, however, is to continue the good work and prepare for this fall.



NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATES AND INFORMATION

[Updates](#) | [COVID-19 in South Dakota](#) | [Trend Data](#)
[Precautions to Avoid Illness](#) | [If You Develop Symptoms](#)
[Community Guidance](#) | [Resources in Multiple Languages](#)
[For Medical Providers](#) | [SD Healthcare Provider Guidance](#)
[Hydroxychloroquine Distribution](#) | [PEPCOH](#)
[SD Registries & Data Collection](#)
[CDC Healthcare Provider Guidance](#) | [CDC Website](#)



For more information on the Coronavirus Disease go to the CDC website:

- General information - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- Information for Healthcare Professionals - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/index.html>

COVID EMS Personal Protection Equipment

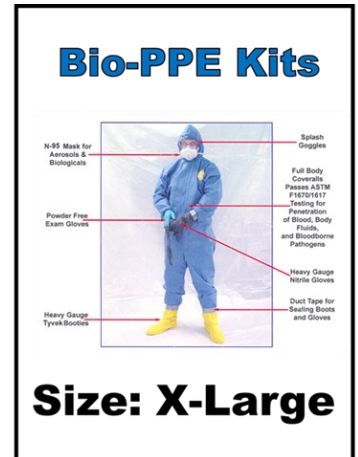
By Julie Smithson—Western EMS Specialist

The State of South Dakota has been able to supply EMS with valuable PPE during this pandemic when it was unattainable from their normal suppliers.

During the first wave of the Corona Virus, the state warehouse sent out 1228 Bio-PPE kits. Every ambulance service in South Dakota received some of these Bio-PPE kits. Avera Careflight and Sanford AirMed asked that we regift their allotment to ground ambulance services.

Each kit was handmade by state workers especially for ambulance personnel. A big “Thank You” to Chuck Kevghas and his crew.

If your ambulance service needs more PPE kits, please contact Julie Smithson at julie.smithson@state.sd.us.



EMR Recertification (Open July 1—Sept. 30)

By Lance Iversen—EMS Data Manager / Ed. & Prof. Standards Coordinator

EMRs who expire September 30th will be able to apply for their SD EMR Recertification beginning July 1st by logging into their E-Licensing Account, which can be accessed via our EMS Program’s website: <https://EMS.sd.gov> then clicking on the red button labeled E-Licensing Portal, or by going directly to the E-Licensing Portal page: <https://southdakota.imagetrendlicense.com/lms/public/portal#/login>.

Everyone has an account in E-Licensing so do not create a new account. Duplicate accounts will be deleted, and you will lose any data that has been entered into a duplicate account. If you do not know your Username and/or Password, you can click on the links “Forgot Username” or “Forgot Password?” at the bottom of the login area (below the password box).

Detailed instructions to renew as well as other instructions for other areas of the License Management System can be found on our website then click on the orange box labeled E-Licensing System Instruction Sheets.

If you maintain your National Registry Certification, that does not automatically renew your State certification. Everyone needs to log into their E-Licensing account and apply for recertification during their recertification open period.

The documents you will need to upload within your renewal application is a copy of your new National Registry card (if applicable), a copy of your current CPR certification/verification, and a copy of your Driver’s License or other Govt. issued photo ID.

EMT Recertification (Extended to June 30th)

By Lance Iversen—EMS Data Manager / Ed. & Prof. Standards Coordinator

EMTs with an expiration date of March 31, 2020 were given an extension to renew their State EMT Certification to June 30th due to COVID-19. EMTs can log into their existing E-Licensing account: <https://southdakota.imagetrendlicense.com/lms/public/portal#/login> and complete the Emergency Medical Technician Renewal Application form until June 30th.

Everyone has an account in E-Licensing so you do not need to create a new account. Duplicate accounts will be deleted, and you will lose any data you enter in your duplicate account. If you do not know your Username and/or Password, you can click on the links “Forgot Username” or “Forgot Password?” at the bottom of the login area (below the password box).

Detailed instructions to renew as well as other instructions for other areas of the License Management System can be found on our website: <https://EMS.sd.gov> then click on the orange box labeled E-Licensing System Instruction Sheets.

If you maintain your National Registry Certification, that does not automatically renew your State certification. Everyone needs to log into their E-Licensing account and apply for recertification during their recertification open period.

If your EMT Certification expires, you are not legally able to work as an EMT on a SD Ambulance service, however, you can be a driver as long as you meet those requirements.

The documents you will need to upload within your renewal application is a copy of your new National Registry card (if applicable), a copy of your current CPR certification/verification, and a copy of your Driver’s License or other Govt. issued photo ID.

Ambulance Service License Renewal—Due by June 30th

By Lance Iversen—EMS Data Manager / Ed. & Prof. Standards Coordinator

SD Ambulance Service License Renewal is due by June 30th.

Those who have Service Director, Assistant Service Director, or Operations Officer permissions in their E-Licensing account can log into their existing E-Licensing account:

<https://southdakota.imagetrendlicense.com/lms/public/portal#/login> and complete the Ambulance Service License Renewal Application.

Applications and payment must be received by June 30th or your service license will be expired.

EMS Week—2020

By Julie Smithson - Western EMS Specialist

Since EMS Week couldn't be celebrated in the normal way with Open Houses, Pancakes or Hamburger Feeds, Blood Drives, etc., it was fun to see creativity of celebrating EMS Week with social distancing.

Here are some of my favorites which I found on Facebook:

- Adopt a 1st Responder
- Public Education on Facebook LIVE
- Virtual 5K
- First Responder Appreciation Photo Contest
- Parades
- Facebook posts
- Signs in yards
- Coloring Contest



Ellsworth Air Force Base salute to Healthcare Workers

EMS Day at the Capitol 2020

By Maynard Konechne - SDEMSA Political Committee

A Social was held that evening and was attended by: 48 Legislators, Secretary of Health, 2 from the ORH EMS Program, Lt. Governor, 23 Interns, 11 Spouses, LRC staff, 2 Lobbyists, and 13 EMTs. The Governor was unable to attend due to being out of the state on business.



Participants in picture for EMS Day February 10, 2020

Bottom Row: Left to Right: Nicole Negebauer-Armour, Arista Kaiser-Tripp Co. Cadet, Tyler McEhleny-Watertown, Lt. Governor Larry Rhoden, Maynard Konechne-Kimball, Eric Van Dusen-Sioux Falls, Brian Ring-Onida, Shawn Fischer-Sturgis, Brian Hambeck-Spearfish

2nd Row: Sissy Orel-Tripp Co., Kayden Kaiser-Cadet, Achilles Willuweit-Cadet, Marlee Schuyler-Cadet, Mackenzie Levi-Cadet, Renae Kaiser-Cadet, Andy Binder-Spearfish

3rd Row: Brent Long-Rapid City, Addy Root-Cadet, Emma Jorgensen-Cadet, Delaine Nelson-Cadet, Shannon Calhoon-Cadet, Margaret Kuipers-Sioux Falls

4th Row: Gerald Knutson-Centerville, Zane Hamiel-Tripp Co., Jason Culberson-Rapid City, Chris Jolley-Rapid City

Top Row: Mark Nichols-North Sioux City, Jim Christensen-North Sioux City, Kevin Heath-Onida, Scott Larson-Highmore

Spotlight EMS

By Maynard Konechne from Kimball Volunteer Ambulance District

The Kimball Fire Department took over the ambulance from a new funeral director who stated he did not want to handle this with his business. The Fire Department began operation in 1972 with funding assistance from Brule County. They purchased a Chevrolet station wagon which was used until 1976 when they purchased a Type 1 Road Rescue ambulance. With local firemen manning the ambulance in the beginning, the community held a 22-hour class in 1974 and began running with members of the community volunteering on the ambulance. In 1999, the Kimball Ambulance District was established to have a better handle on finances to keep up equipment and vehicles.

Our service area includes portions of Interstate 90 and Highway 45 along with 618 square miles which includes portions of Brule, Buffalo, and Jerauld Counties and the cities of Kimball and Gann Valley which includes approximately 1700 residents.

We work closely with the Kimball Fire Department who responds on all car and farm accidents with traffic control and rescue equipment which includes the Jaws of Life, air bags, struts, and other misc. rescue equipment.

We have 18 active EMTs in our area with five of them residing over 10 miles from Kimball. They have first aid bags which includes oxygen and a defibrillator. We have two that live 27 miles Northwest of Kimball who also have a Lucas which they have used a few times before we have arrived with the ambulance. They all act as first responders if we are called to their areas.

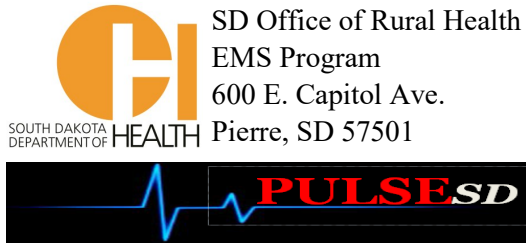
We respond to approximately 100 calls per year with the majority of them being geriatric and trauma calls on our highways with assistance from the fire dept. We do in house training normally every other month. Our ambulance has a Stryker self-load cot which is a huge help to our personnel. We are in the process of putting together specs for a new ambulance.

We do community service such as standbys at local football games, assisting in bike safety programs, and giving away bike helmets. We assist the fireman with the fire prevention program at the school. We teach CPR to all freshmen through seniors at the Kimball School every year and at graduation every senior receives a first aid kit from the ambulance service. We have some hunting lodges who have purchased AEDs and we will be teaching the CPR classes to them this summer.

We have become a pediatric ready community through EMS for Children and are close to completing the criteria needed to become a cardiac ready community in the State.

(Eight EMTs are missing from photo).





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